



PLACER COUNTY  
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**EDWARD N. BONNER**  
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

**STEPHEN L. D'ARCY**  
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

DATE AND TIME OF RELEASE: JULY 19, 1991, 6 P.M.

DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT: JULY 19, 1991, 2:30 P.M.

NATURE OF RELEASE: HOMES DESTROYED IN LOOMIS FIRE

CONTACT: LT. CHAL DE CECCO, (530) 889-7800

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SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

A fast-moving fire of undetermined origin resulted in major loss of property and the evacuation of hundreds of Loomis residents Thursday afternoon.

According to Lt. Chal DeCecco, the 40-acre fire was first reported at 2:30 p.m. when flames were spotted along the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way along Taylor Road, near downtown Loomis.

The fire may have been started by a downed railroad communications line that was seen by witnesses at the same time flames broke out. The wind-fanned fire quickly jumped a dirt access road along the railroad tracks and raced through an open field toward nearby neighborhoods.

One home was destroyed, as well as two garages, five outbuildings, one boat and one truck. Three other homes were damaged. Numerous sheds also burned. Fire officials said the damage might have been far greater if a field at Frost and Berg had not just been mowed.

All available Placer County Sheriff's deputies contained the area of King and Taylor roads and Sierra College Blvd. Residents were evacuated on Frost, Berg, Cagle, Saunders, N. McAllen, Cole, Boone and Wine streets. DeCecco said 95 percent of the residents left their homes, while a small group of others stayed behind.

Responding fire agencies that assisted the Loomis Fire Department included Rocklin, Penryn, Roseville, South Placer, Foresthill, Newcastle and Placer Consolidated. The California Department of Forestry provided air and ground support, including two air tankers, an air attack ship and water-dropping helicopters. The California Highway Patrol assisted with five traffic accidents caused by heavy traffic, DeCecco said.

Fire crews remain on scene to perform mop-up and to watch for possible flare-ups. Damaged power and telephone lines were also being repaired.